

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 732

By Hazlewood

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dr. Cathy Robbs Baker on being named a 2016 Woman of Distinction.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cathy Robbs Baker is one such estimable individual, who has been named a 2016 Woman of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious honor is given to women who have distinguished themselves through their professional, civic, and volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cathy Baker is the director of education at Christ United Methodist Church, a position she has held for ten years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Baker earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education English, a Master of Education degree in Secondary Education English, and a Doctor of Education degree in Leadership and Learning from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC); and

WHEREAS, she was employed as an adjunct English instructor at Chattanooga State Technical Community College for eleven years and a teacher at Chattanooga Central High School for more than twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her role as educator, Dr. Cathy Baker is a published author and certified life coach, who has helped hundreds of women find and live their purpose; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Dr. Baker is the recipient of the 2007 Outstanding Graduate Student award in the UTC Doctoral Program, Walmart Teacher of the

Year, and the Hamilton County Department of Education Excellence in Teaching award, and she was the 2003 Tennessee Power of the Purse Honoree; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cathy Baker is deeply involved in her community, serving on the advisory council for the Chattanooga Area Crown Financial Ministries and the East Brainerd Community Theater and as a member of the Humanities Outreach in Tennessee and Chattanooga Bible in the Schools steering committee. She is the cofounder of Wholly Single, and she has influenced women to serve their community through two organizations, Mom2Mom and Women of Worth; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to education extends beyond the classroom; she recruits and trains a team of local educators to provide staff development for teachers in Nicaragua, leads fundraising efforts to provide school supplies for those teachers, and is committed to helping those who are impoverished or neglected in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Baker is perhaps most appreciative of the love and support she shares with her husband, Larry Baker; her sons, Josh Robbs and Jordan Robbs; and her grandchildren, Stella and Will; and

WHEREAS, epitomizing the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, Dr. Cathy Baker takes her place among the many noble citizens who have earned Tennessee the nickname of the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as Dr. Cathy Baker who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Dr. Cathy Robbs Baker on being named a 2016 Woman of Distinction, thank her for all she has done to make her community and this State better places to live and work, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.